

For Men Who Enjoy Being Women

Illusions

REFERENCE USE ONLY

MEN...
into
WOMEN

TRUE "TV"
CONFessions

99% PURE

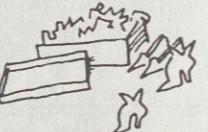
SCORING
ON THE STREET

premarin
The Cruel Hormone

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Volume 4 Issue 4 November/December.....\$8.00

Dear Reader.....



Well 1994 is just about over and Xmas is almost here! Maybe one of our greatest gifts has been that anyone can come through our doors. We provide people with a **Secure Environment** and give **Support** and **Friendship**. We can provide **Information** through our library and **Encouragement**. Illusions Social Club has been bursting at the seams this year. Its been fun to watch new gals arrive and grow in their world of discovery. The very nature of a group like ours is one of constant flux, with people coming and going, always changing for whatever reason. The success of our group is that it exists and continues to exist, with a door that is always open. This is also a big responsibility! As of January 1st, 1995 we will be increasing the membership to \$40 which will help cover ever increasing operational costs and should keep the club running smoothly.

A little update with our Illusions Magazine: Last month Cynthia graciously spent her afternoon addressing about 150 magazines for sending to other clubs around the **Globe**. We included a letter about our club and that we are looking forward to an exchange of reading material. Since then we have had a fantastic response from **Clubs** all over! Its been great to read through some of the literature and to see how their progress is going. Our library will be bursting at the seams in no time soon! So if you have some thoughts and stories for the magazines... let us know.. because you will have a voice.....**OUT THERE!**

Another update is around the Red Deer event. We were approached with the idea of having a girls evening in Red Deer at a very friendly bar....we said **SURE!** Dana ran an inviting note in the Red Deer Advocate and each day we had 2 to 3 calls asking about our group and how to join etc. We had the Advocate call us specifically to find out all about this and to write an article on the idea of "**Crossdressing in Central Alberta**". The article was well presented and our evening was fabulous. The same writer asked us for interviews and photos...so while we were there we went to the offices of the Advocate and surprised them with our strength in numbers! Another article with photo was out the next week and it was excellent. The depiction was again..put together very nicely. On a sceptical note however, Alberta Report called and tried to pool the film "Exit to Eden" and crossdressing all into one ball of wax. Christine tried to educate that extremely right wing reporter on the differences between crossdressing and other fetishes.....so who knows? There could be a report from their very scary right wing rag.....take it with a grain of salt.

Still seems like a great time to **Educate** others with all the movies and literature out there.....so don't be lazy. As you spend time with others over the festive season, share yourself and your feelings on issues. Argue, disagree, provoke conversations.....**Get Involved. Be Proud of Who YOU Are!** Merry Xmas from our house to yours.....see you at the Xmas Party!

In Tinsel and Tassels

Love.... Barbie & Christine



Illusion Calendar

CALGARY

- November 12 TV Bingo II
- November 24 Chance to Breathe Social
- December 17 PotLuck Xmas Dinner
- January 14 Las Vegas Night
- January 26 Feminine Deportment
- February 11 Valentine's Karaoke
- February 23 Make-up & Hairdressing



EDMONTON

- November 10 Regular Social
- December 8 Potluck???
- January 12 Regular Social
- February 9 Regular Social

"Christine has new accommodations for the EDMONTON ILLUSIONS SOCIALS! Be sure to contact her or Barbie at 236-7072 in Calgary or 486-9661 in Edmonton for more information!!!

Illusions Editors: Barbie, Christine and Lisa

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GIRLS MEET in RED DEER

"Real Travel Adventures"

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TINSELTOWN TV!

- Sarah N. DIPPITY

"ILLUSIONS" CENTERFOLD

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"SOUTHERN GAL"



Ladies Only

Thurs. Jan. 26
Feminine
Deportment
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life stories

**THE CLUB'S
REGISTRY**
Check out the "GIRL'S"

THRONE SPEECH

*Musings by
Empress IV
Lisa*

I am a crossdresser because - I am. Whenever I'm in a philosophical mood, pondering the reason why there is the colour brown, polyester or the meaning to crossdressing I try to come up with snappy answers to explain my reasoning. Well, for brown and polyester: Not on this body! For my TV lifestyle; it's as my opening sentence, I don't know anything other than the way I am.

Often, we in the TV/TS world feel the guilt and shame that society projects upon men who feel and exhibit themselves as feminine. Movie and TV dramas add TV/TS's to scripts as either sadistic criminals (*Silence of the Lambs*, *Dressed to Kill*) or ridiculous fools (*Bosom Buddies*, *Crowded House*), male relationships and their activities don't lend much to clothes shopping or feelings, religion condemns us (or so some claim), fathers don't want sons being daughters and wives don't need another girlfriend. It's not a wonder that we have had a hard time coming to terms with ourselves. Who would condemn another crossdresser who has purged a female wardrobe? We feel we are unusual, 'other guys don't do this!'

Let's turn the argument the other way. So what if society gives us the dirty stare, they are not crossdressers. What we're doing is not harmful, oh maybe to our wallets on a shopping spree, but are we harming society by getting in touch with our compassionate, gentler selves? The world could always use a few billion more peace-makers.

In seeing the situation from the other perspective, is it strange to you that men will engage in activities where they kill the finest of Nature's creatures if only for their heads, show women and children just who the 'boss' is, make fun of gays and immigrants, watch other men fight each other for cash, or recite the first half of the alphabet in one-mighty belch? Of course not all men in society do these things, but is there an outcry for them to stop their silliness? Not much it seems. An easier target would be the man who chooses to be a woman, how dare he step down from the podium of power and be weak! It's like the school bully picking on the little-quiet kid at the playground, an easier fight than with someone his size.

In my life, I let the bully intimidate me from crossdressing. I went 4 years denying my feminine side. What a waste of good time. To think of the growth and experiences I could have had, even if that meant wearing brown and polyester.

Be who you are. You're different, but then again who in this world is the same? Perhaps the bullies?

*My best wishes to you for the
Christmas season and New Year.
'Dress' your best!*

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Christmas Pot-luck at Illusions

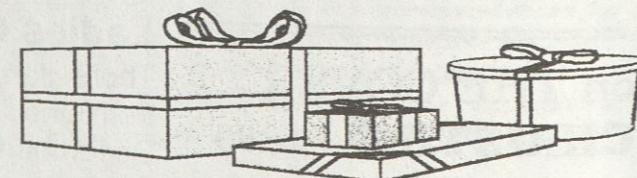
*Join your friends,
as we celebrate the
special season
Saturday
December 17
7:30pm*

The door fee of \$10 is waived if you bring a dish or condiment. We are looking for salads, veggies, dips, desserts and pop. Call Barbie at Illusions: 236-7072 and let her know what you'll bring. Turkey, potatoes and gravy are supplied by the club.

In lieu of a gift exchange, members are asked to donate items to the Food Bank and unwrapped toys to women's shelters. Collection boxes are now available at Illusions.

In previous years our club has unselfishly helped those less fortunate. We have so much to be thankful for, let's continue that spirit.

The Christmas Pot-luck is one of Illusions biggest parties of the year. Don't miss it, wear your best dress too!



Taking our Heels to the Highway *Illusions trip to Red Deer, Oct. 22*

Never a homebody, the Illusions gal takes her make-up bag and goes out to meet new friends. So it was in R.D., as 30 gals from Edmonton and Calgary met at The Other Place Bar, for an evening that will be talked about for months to come. Bar owner Doug, was a great, along with his regular patrons, they served up fine Central Alberta hospitality to us all.

Karen and Michelle entertained, as well as our friend Kiwi, who now lives in Red Deer. Pool sharkettes duled, and the rest of the gals partied to the late hours.

Our merry band spurred some interest in Red Deer as the Red Deer Advocate Newspaper published a story a week before and the Monday after the event. Thanks to Dana, our Red Deer Hostess, who set up the interviews with reporter Lana Michelin. Lana's articles about us were very fair. She touched on the sensitive nature of the Illusions member, and the problems many of us face expressing who we are. You can see the articles at Illusions.

We hope that the visit and publicity will attract more Central Alta. crossdressers to Illusions. Expect to see us back at The Other D' in the New Year. See you there!

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Illusions Socials

LADY ON THE SCENE

MARLAYNA LACIE



GREETINGS FROM CALIFORNIA! Thank you for your Illusions magazine.. We will exchange our Epic Magazine with you. If any of your members would like some information about what's happening in our area (if they are travelling to L.A.) feel free to write to me!

I'm a writer and if you would like some articles on our hobby than let me know.

I was at the QUEEN MARY one evening and overheard a lady (crossdresser) new to the scene explaining what a transvestite was and what it all meant. I found out that the woman he was talking with had come to see the floor show and the crossdresser doing the explaining was hitting on her. She seemed very confused. Here the woman was, in a female impersonator show lounge and a man dressed as a woman is trying to pick her up. She found it hard to believe that a man who dresses as a woman would not be gay!

There haven't been enough research and surveys done of related gender issues but we are fortunate that we have gained some interesting facts. There are three types of TV's.

The Pseudo-transvestite who dresses for exploratory reasons. The dressing is done as a kick and not to fill a need or desire to dress in woman's clothing.

The fetishistic TV dresses on occasion and views the garments as fetish objects. Deriving pleasure and sexual arousal from them, he does not relate to a female persona. His focus is masculine and he feels masculine and rejects and idea of changing his sex.

I have a friend that calls sometimes late at night, describing the tight rubber skirt and six inch heels he's wearing. He gets off on the touch, feel, caress and intoxicating euphoria that wearing these garments gives him. He does not change personae and still is masculine in feelings.

Then there's the true TV and he sees himself as a male but is not entirely convinced of this self image. His behaviour may include frequent crossdressing and practice of feminine behaviour to the point of dressing in full drag. His focus is not sexual so much as the pursuit of relaxation/release.

This relaxation comes the relief from discomfort with his gender. This tension comes, he feels, from being "in between" male and female feelings. He may be heterosexual in his orientation but when he dresses he may feel an attraction to males. He is not, however, homosexual and he is not a transsexual and rejects the idea of sex change surgery.

Many crossdressers enjoy dressing and going out to bars and having men pay attention to them. Most do not want to go home with these gentlemen but do find pleasure and satisfaction from their attention. Many end up going home to a girlfriend or wife.

I have told people who ask me that there is a feminine side to my personality and my expression of this femininity is through the personae that is Marlayna. I have been married

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Letter from the Editor

Blah, Blah, Blah



MEN IN SKIRTS.... are sometimes...just that. Acting Lady Like is a LEARNED way to act. Just because you spend hours working your wigs, cleaning your shoes, washing and ironing your clothes, placing your boobies in just the right spot, and applying your makeup doesn't mean that you have the entire feminine persona down pat. Just as you have enjoyed the hours practising for the presentation of it all...have you practised your female mannerisms or behaviours?

Learning to be lady like doesn't come easily. I know.... cuz I have a 10 year old daughter who still farts and burps in public and thinks its funny! Like being born into blue blood...one quickly learns the ways of proper breeding and manners. Sometimes I see the gals around the club and except for the clothes...there still lurks a testosterone male. It could be in the conversations or the way one sits, stands or walks. Women "Liberals" would not be thrilled with the idea of emulation of the "female"...but in this case I think that this is where the peace and serenity lies for those of you that truly feel your female side.

If men in this country were raised in a culture that allowed them the freedom to acknowledge, feel and experience the feminine side of their personalities, there would be no stigma attached to the type of clothing, they wear. Maybe that would take the fun out of dressing, I don't know.

I do know that society puts us into cribs with pink or blue blankets. This is not fair. A friend told me, "I see you as a sensitive person. Most of us are born and put into a mold that is male or female. That is fifty percent. You, on the other hand have male sensitivity and female sensitivity. This gives you one hundred percent to work with!"

Now, more than ever, men are finding and coming to terms with the feminine side of their personalities. Many of the old guilt trips are disappearing. Men are dealing with and enjoying their crossdressing. The key, I feel is to become educated on gender related issues. From there the understanding can begin.

learn ways to better yourself and also to unlearn some male patterns.

Some examples:

We're going through a drive thru for a burger...how does a male ask? how does a female ask? She will usually say please and probably thank you. No big revelation I know...but when she says please..she is not merely being polite but also wondering if its OK. Women have been second class..men being the rulers.(they seem to demand stuff) where women will ask if its ok. Men tend to have a pecking order with each other and to be the best is their goal. Women would rather relate to each other and not struggle for 1st place. So if someone says you look nice..be gracious and say thankyou, not "I know"!

Learn some female ways...you'll be surprised at how much more passable you'll be!

conflicting with their TS thoughts. There are some that are going through a menopause of their own.. a job change, a relationship change and the big one that some won't be honest about... a sexual side that is confused. Sometimes it seems that the idea of taking hormones for some could be as effective as the proverbial sugar pill. All problems will dissolve when the hormones kick in. If the boy has had stressful issues to deal with then maybe that girl on the other side of the fence will be peachy. She has no problems...YET.

Another thought is that sometimes the only literature around has been porno TS mags. Maybe some people have thought that is the way that things are....heaven forbid.

Then there's the idea of SEX. Maybe you want to play with another man. Maybe you can't do it with your jeans

When beauty is only skin deep, it's not real beauty.

My second train of thought is ... There seems to be so many TS's coming out of the woodwork these days. I have some concerns about the numerous men that say they are a TS and want to go on hormones etc.

I used to think that it was an unfair practice that the rule of the thumb is that to consider surgery etc..you needed to live for 2 years as a gal. I don't think that anymore..I'm glad its 2 years.. In small conversations with some of the men that come through the store and club, I have picked up tidbits about them that could be

on but it could be easier if you slip into a costume and mask the guilts that we all have been brought believing on the subject of same sex love. There are some TS wannabe's that say they are lesbians.. maybe that is wanting the best of all worlds? Get rid of the boy parts but stick with boy thinking...boy wants girl. Then is that true TS thinking? Wouldn't a real girl want to be with a man?..isn't that the way us girls have been raised to think?

Another idea is that men love a "task". When a man realizes that he likes to dress up in female

Cont'd on Page 12

TRUE "TV" CONFESSIONS

The first person I told was my former wife and that was 50 years ago. For 40 years, until she died, she would throw my feminine clothes in the fireplace. I would promise not to do it again, but a month or two later.... well, what could I do? What a guilt complex I had until I found Tri-Ess, then Illusions and re-married. - Audrey

The first person I ever told about my crossdressing was my wife. We often tried different things, and one time when her parents were off on an extended vacation, I suggested, just for fun, that we dress me in her mother's clothes. To my delight, she agreed. When we were done dressing, we went on to makeup. When done, she let me leave it on for a while we joked around. Months, (years?) later when we knew that we were serious about each other and would probably get married one day, I decided she needed to know about my femme side. If she couldn't accept it and stopped our relationship now, at least it would be simpler than a messy divorce later. The conversation went something like this: "Honey, you know that time we dressed me as a girl?" "Ya, that was fun". "No, I don't think you know what I mean. I really liked it, and, in fact, I do it quite often!" "Oh, ...are you gay?" I told her I wasn't, so she said she could live with it, but didn't really want to participate in it. This is how it's been for nearly 12 years, but this year, since joining Illusions, she has really been working on accepting it more openly, and is starting to consider coming to a meeting some day. Of course, I've been working on my shortcomings for her also, and this has served to help our marriage.

- Correen

WHO WAS THE FIRST PERSON YOU TOLD YOU CROSSDRESSED?

The first person I told that I was a crossdresser was my wife. actually, I really thought I was a transsexual, but this is not about labels. That was eight to ten years ago. What I did was write down my thoughts in journal form over a period of months. I then let her read the journal. It really quite took her back. She continues to struggle with the whole issue, but to her credit she has tried to understand. - Mary

The first person I told? Well, I suppose if you don't count the people whom I may have inadvertently surprised, the first person would be my first wife, who, in turn, failed to see the humour in anything as off-colour or perverted as that. So, a while later, we divorced. Some time later my ex remarried. The fellow she married, it seems, was also a crossdresser, who later pursued a sex-change. So, all in all, ain't life interesting? Who'd a thunk it? - Rena

The first person that I told of my being a crossdresser was my sister and brother-in-law. Although somewhat initially stunned, they readily accepted the idea. My sister mentioned that she had a fairly good idea of my interest in girls'/women's clothing. She was so appreciative of my being open and honest about the matter that she came over and gave me a huge hug and we have been much closer since that time. - Karen

I told my wife prior to our wedding 20 years ago that I sometimes liked to try on women's clothing. As long as it was once-in-a-while, and strictly as a joke, it was okay with her. Shortly after our marriage I dressed-up "all the way". My wife was very upset by this and, as a result, I retreated to the closet. Finally, in May of this year, I joined Illusions and confronted my wife on how serious I really was about crossdressing. She hates the whole subject and refuses to come to the club or discuss it at all. Hopefully, in time, she will come to understand. -Anonymous

Wife - I told my wife before and after she discovered my stash of clothing. Before she found it she ignored what I said. Afterwards, she was very understanding and decided to combine our interests. The second person was Barbie; the rest is history. - K.

The first time I told someone about my crossdressing was when I was looking for others like myself, some place in Toronto many years ago. The first persons I talked to about it in person were Brian and Barbie, and life has been getting better ever since.

-Anonymous

The first time for me was at an Edmonton Illusions social. I was worried at first because I had never dressed for anyone else to see me, and wasn't as confident that I knew what I was doing. Everyone was supportive and I felt at ease right away. The funny part was that I wasn't used to anybody calling me by my female name and therefore wouldn't respond when someone started talking to me. -Anonymous

I was sitting on a couch in Spain where I lived for awhile with my wife. We talked about a lot of things, and I told her I wanted to be a crossdresser. She was most supportive as, always. She encouraged me, and eight years later (ok, so I'm a little slow), I showed up at Illusions and met Barbie and Christine. -Anonymous

#1 I told my first wife that I was a TV. It was about 5% of the reason that we divorced shortly thereafter.

#2 I told my second wife, Brenda, who was the second person who knew, but I only told her the full details after she found out by accident. Even so, the results have been A-1.

#3 The third person I told was Barbie. Since I didn't know her well, this was perhaps the hardest step to take. It has also turned out A-1. -Anonymous

WHO DID YOU TELL?

The first person I ever revealed my nocturnal, feminine tendencies to was my close cousin, Frank. This happened while we were rooming together in Toronto. We have been very close since he moved here from Germany when we were about fifteen. Obviously, there wasn't a problem; he was quite aware of my early experimentation with "the other side" since there were many "incidents" that he was aware of. I was lucky to have my first confidante be so positive and even supportive, unless it was to borrow money for clothes or shoes. - Gina Lola Bridgework

The first (and only) person I revealed my crossdressing to was my girlfriend. I was nineteen and she was twenty or twenty-one. She had a party at her place, (parents out of town), and after a few drinks I went to the bathroom, saw some panties and a slip, and grabbed the panties, put them on and before I got to the slip she entered the room and was shocked. The next day she told me I was really drunk and was wearing her panties. I told her I really loved dressing in women's clothes and that was the end of our relationship.

- Betty

The first person I ever told about my Crossdressing was my first psychiatrist, Dr. Patricia Simmons, in Edmonton, circa 1970. I chose her as my shrink because she was a woman. I felt that I could better relate to and confide in a woman than a man. As it turned out, she did not scream and order me out of the room as I was expecting. So, I felt more human and accepted. -Anonymous

My best friends girlfriend and she didn't believe I was serious, until I borrowed her dress and wore it then she still didn't believe it.

-Wendy Wyld

The first person I told was my wife. It was several months after we were married. She reacted with shock. It took a long time but she eventually learned to accept my crossdressing and even encouraged me to join "Illusions". We celebrated our 15th anniversary last month. - Christine R.

The 1st. person I told about my CD's was a guy I worked with & lived with for 2 yrs. He was quite a bit younger but accepted really well and we are still good friends. That was about 2 years ago. Since then I've told all the people close to me including my family & close friends. In my case it has gone past CDing and I am pursuing the transsexual aspect. I just recently told my family about this situation also and they appear to be supportive of this course of action also.

- Sonya

First person I ever told about my crossdressing besides my mother, who thought I was insane, was my first ex-wife which is why she's my ex-wife. We are now best friends but she doesn't want to see me dressed. My second ex-wife's reaction was exactly the same which is why she is my ex-wife.

I've given up finding wives or ex-wives!

- Rachael

beauty word of mouth

How to choose the best red lipstick

Red lipstick showed up on most runways and in most makeup collections for fall. While red has a reputation for being hard to wear, this season's shades are user-friendly. "Fall reds include blue-reds, orange-reds, brown-reds and sheer pink-reds," says New York City makeup artist Bobbi Brown. In other words, there really is a red for everyone, including those—like redheads and icy blondes—who were advised to avoid red in the past.

Finding a shade that flatters is not a hit-or-miss proposition. Rather, it is quite simply a matter of selecting one with undertones that match your complexion. Here, how to choose one that works for you:

Reshape your eyes with liquid liners

LIQUID LINER IS MAKING A COMEBACK. Updated felt-tip versions are offered this fall by Lancôme, Maybelline and Prescriptives. Whether you're new to liquid-liner techniques, or a little rusty, here is some advice from two New York City makeup artists.

"Take it slow, and draw a thin line from the inner corner out," says Lea Siegel. "If you want a thicker line, go back and add to it." Matthew Sky of Pierre Michel at The Plaza adds, "A wet liner gives less control. Wipe the pen well." To avoid: thick, extended cat's eyes that make you look like you stepped out of a time machine. A more modern take: varying the line to enhance the shape of your eyes. Here, Sky's how-tos for specific shapes:



Almond eyes: Draw a thin line on the inner corner that thickens at the outer corner.



Wide-set eyes: Start with a thick line on the inner corner that becomes thin at the outer corner.



Narrow eyes: Draw a thick line at either end of top lids. Line bottom with pencil and smudge.

Blue-reds range from fire-engine to plum. **Who should wear** Anyone with "cool," extreme complexions. Translation: skin that's either very pale or ebony dark.

Pink-reds are softer reds. **Who should wear** Anyone—from fair to dark—with a rosy tint to her skin.

Brown-reds are the most wearable, ranging from reddish beige to brick. **Who should wear** Almost anyone. Brown-reds work especially well with olive complexions or redheads who find that orange-reds are too close a match to their hair color.

Orange-reds range from tomato to soft coral reds. **Who should wear** Those with golden or yellow undertones—whether very pale, olive or deeper in color.

When choosing, also keep in mind that reds come in varying intensities. If a bold red mouth seems out of place on your face, you may fall in love with a red-tinted gloss.



lash curler

Curling your lashes will make eyes appear larger. Here's how: Open curler and place it over mascara-free lashes (get as close to the lash line as possible). Squeeze the handles together for five seconds and release. Then move the curler to the middle of

lashes and repeat. To prevent lash breakage, always use curlers with coated clamps. Try: Cover Girl Make-Up Masters Lash Curler or Natural Finish Eyelash Curler by Naturistics (above).

Winterproof lips

My lips are a mess from the cold weather and indoor heat. Any advice?

Here are five tips for keeping lips feeling soft:

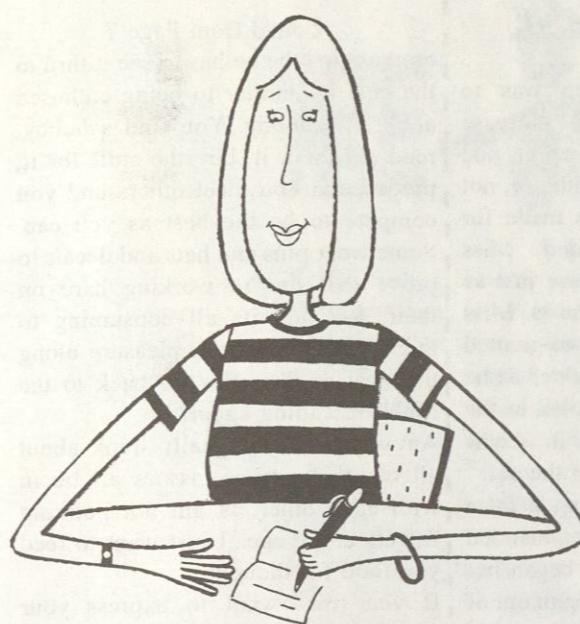
- **Don't lick your lips.** It causes moisture to evaporate, making them feel dry.
- **Keep lips well lubricated.** Regular use of a moisturizing product, such as Vaseline Lip Therapy with Conditioning Complex 12, protects, hydrates and relieves chapping. (Warning: Watch out for medicated lip treatments that contain salicylic acids; they will actually dry out your lips.)

★ TRICK OF THE TRADE ★

Undereye concealer is only half the story. When concealer is applied around the whole eye, it hides veins. To prep lids for shadow, makeup artist Kevyn Aucoin suggests setting the concealer with translucent powder.

★ TRICK OF THE TRADE ★

★ TRICK OF THE TRADE ★



[viewpoint]

A Word Of Warning

Well maybe a lot of words of warning. Having decided to become a woman full-time on October 1, 1994 has been a real eye-opener, hence this story. A word of warning is not meant to deprive you of existence in the 'real' world, but rather thoughts to living as a woman.

These past two weeks have given me much pleasure living as a woman in a large city. Trying to blend in, not always succeeding, but doing it anyway. It has also given me opportunity to feel the prejudices and constraints of being female. Life isn't greener on the other side of the fence, if anything it's dirtier.

Women, even in today's society generally make less than men, and unless you are fortunate to transition on the job, in the case of the transsexual, you will probably have to start a job at minimum wage. Not easy if you're used to \$1,200 to \$2,000 a month, take home pay. In my case I was laid off due to a shortage of work. Still, would it be easier to get work as a man, rather than a man passing as a woman?

Many of my friends have told me how encouraged they have been by my going public, full-time. A word of warning, move slowly when telling them, unless you are willing to lose all your friends, family and neighbors. Don't chance it. My best advice is practice, practice and more practice. Granted the first time going public full-time will be fun, but unless you are well practiced, you will probably make a fool of yourself. I did.

It costs more to live as a woman, than a biological woman. Makeup, pantyhose and other items you never had before have to be purchased. If you're like me, trying to get work as a woman, prepare for a long wait. Unless you have good credentials or your former boss will give you a referral using your now female name, mine won't. With unemployment levels at 10 to 12%, you have a lot of competition, and as a TS woman, your chances are slimmer.

Of course all these warnings are based on many of us being passable to the public. If you can pull it off, go for it. If you're unsure, don't tread water, hone up on your skills. The window of opportunity will be there when we are confident and ready.

Rachael Dawn Bardeck

Ladies, if you have a viewpoint send it in. Illusions accepts written, typed or computer disc submissions.

The following is Michelle Hart's response to a letter from our Sept/Oct issue.

Dear No Girl Name Yet...I read your letter in the last Illusions Newsletter and was somewhat saddened by it. In your letter you wrote that you are very scared and after becoming a new member, tired to attend one of our socials, but just couldn't bring yourself to do it. I know how you feel, because I have been there too. It took me a long time to get up the courage to walk in. Like you, I was in awe of the people I read about and saw pictured in the magazine and also, I was also afraid that they would just laugh at me. I fact I was so afraid of being rejected that I practiced to try and be good enough for almost two years before I went to my first social. Although my fears seemed very real to me at the time, I soon found out that they were between my ears and not at all justified. The fact is, now that I able to look back I can plainly see that in reality, all I managed to do during that time was waste two good years of my life.

So, 'No Girl Name Yet', the next time, don't drive on by, come in and meet us. My guess is that you might be surprised and the happier for it in the long run, and if you do, maybe like me, you too will be able to look back and say, "Awe shoot, why did I spend so much time worrying about nothing!" Good luck, No Girl Name Yet. Maybe it's time for you to start finding your track. Sincerely...Michelle Hart

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SPECIAL "K" STROLLS DOWN MEMORY LANE

On Sunday, September 4th, Canyon Meadows Retirement Residence was the stage for Karen (Special K)'s debut as a female impersonator performer to an audience outside of the cross-gender community. The night of nostalgic, lip-synced interpretations of 40's and 50's favourites, which included such notable titles as "It Might As Well be Spring" and "White Cliffs of Dover", by Margaret Whiting and Vera (Forces' Sweetheart) Lynn was appreciatively received by the 40 or more retirees in attendance. On two of the Vera Lynn songs, members of the audience joined in singing with Karen as they relived cherished memories.

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The after dinner show consisted of two sets with a quick outfit change during the intermission. Karen was resplendent in both her red and blue dresses and presented the audience with a serious, artistic attempt to provide an unusual evening's entertainment.

As luck would have it, a humorous event at the very beginning of Karen's first set broke up the audience and put everyone in a jovial mood to be

entertained. Just as Karen was to descend down a curving staircase following the MC's introduction, one old gentleman from the residence, not aware of the arrangements made for Karen's entrance, preceded Miss Special K down the staircase just as the MC said, "And here she is, Miss Special K!" The poor gent was greeted by hoots of uproarious laughter as he innocently made his way down to the dining room. Sometimes it seems everybody wants to get into the act. Without so much as batting a false eyelash, Miss Special K commanded the moment and gracefully began her set with nary a feather or sequin out of place. The audience loved it.

Cont'd from Page 7

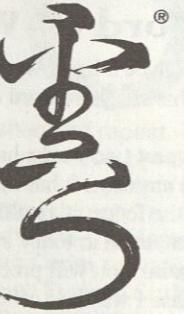
clothes...maybe he has to see it thru to the end. Its similar to being enthused about any hobby. You find a hobby, read all about it, buy the stuff for it, pretty soon you meet others and you compete to be the best as you can. Some wear pins and hats and decals to prove that they're working hard on their task and its all consuming to them! Has there been pleasure along the way..or does this go back to the Male Best thing again?

Anyways... if you really think about all of this ...these issues all tie in with each other. I am not pointing fingers at anyone...I just want to feed you food for thought.

If you truly want to express your female person...than think of why you are..and then how you can mold yourself into the girl you would like to be proud of.

Take care of yourself.

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Sacramento Gender Association

Volume 1 Issue 8

Being a highly gifted individual with a quick, keen and incredibly organized mind I've again placed the power of my thoughts to a problem and with it, once again, completed some extraordinary scientific research over a large span of time to help you consider something about labelling people (OK fine, I've lied a little and it was about 5 minutes with a calculator). There are 728 hours of life in a given month. Taking the act of any life style regarding sex and that span of time in any given relationship required to start, engage and complete that act gives you a measurable cycle of activity relative to that month. It means that for most relationships sex is about 4-8 hours within that same period of time (OK some will vary so quit bragging).

Is there a point to this? I believe so. Now let's be honest with this initial concept, most people who label are labelling individuals for those 4-8 hours. Right? Of course they are. Taking the whole of the time in this equation it all boils down to someone doing something sexually different(?) that gets them labelled.. Now, considering that these acts by "all" life styles is being carried out in the privacy of their own lives then it seems an even odder way to come up with a label. But it's done that way so I'll use this as my basis for the formula. However, for the sake of this paper and given that basis lets assume (that's "ass-u-me" when done so without facts) that its this approach and no other that causes your greatest concern. So taken that you don't actually see those acts(?) and given the fact that it's the act itself that you've chosen in support of your label then taking this speculation and applying it to my formula goes as follows:

When the label is applied it is applied

to only that portion you find different (or in your words intolerant). So the numbers as applied in your argument are 4-8 hours over 728 hours. That is to say he's straight, she's a lesbian or he's gay about 1% of all their life. You've simply taken an act and labelled it. Or given another way, you've completely ignored all other aspects of that human being for about one percent of his or her chosen life style (A life style you might never see I might add...again). And once you've applied that label first you've closed the door on all other aspects of that individual? Consider that! Every other aspect of that person is ignored. Amazing when you think about it and even more amazing given how much time some people spend trying to apply labels to that small percentage across the board. So, I would put to you that unless its odds given on being hit by a car or something really important it's not even high enough to measure. My check book even has a far greater error rate (actually far greater).

Now taking this highly thought out scientific study further let's consider the other 99% of that individuals life. They work, worry, live and play almost exactly as I do. I say almost because some like boats and I like planes, others like leather and I like chiffon. In fact I've searched my memory extensively (which took about 10 seconds considering what's left of it) and noted two things in the past couple of years: I've not witnessed any sexual act by any life style save my own and because I've not been part of that 1% that's different I've not had to consider that act as part of my requirement for knowing that individual. Conversely then I've been allowed to share in that other 99% of theirs. And you know what? I've been

Linda Lee, 99% Pure.

ALT.TRANSGENDERED ON INTERNET

Hi! It is my hope to make this an on-going column, at least while the interest is there. I do have some ideas for future instalments, but please let me know if there is any topic you would like to see covered, or any comments in general!

This issue, I'd like to let our community know of a computer service called Internet that offers many services, but in particular, one called "Read News". This is a collection of 'News-Groups' that cover EVERY topic one can think of. People from around the entire world 'post' articles, or even pictures, and various discussions, or questions and answers take place within each group. You can just read what's there, or post your own articles, totally anonymously if desired. This is the big advantage to the service, and let's people express themselves freely without fear of anyone knowing who they are. Some pretty personal and intimate things get said.

The news-group we'd be most interested in is called "*alt.transgendered*". Here, all issues pertaining to the trans-anything (T*) community are discussed. About $\frac{1}{2}$ the articles are from/for pre- and post-op transsexuals (TS) and deal with hormones, surgeons, sexual reassignment surgery (SRS), real life training (RLT), finding a job as a woman, electrolysis, etc. If you have any questions about a sex change, you'll get answers here.

The rest of the postings pertain to crossdressers (CD) or transvestites (TV). (Note: 'trans' is Latin for 'cross', and 'vest' is for 'dress' despite the discussions on their terminology differences). The articles include people introducing themselves to the group, usually in awe of finding such a thing exists, and that they are not alone. Some articles are little stories about its author going out shopping, or night-clubbing as a woman. These are

This area has been left intentionally blank due to privacy considerations.

my personal favorites! Less than 6 months ago, when I was totally in the closet, it was reading these adventures that gave me the burning desire and courage to go out myself, finally knowing others were already doing it. This (along with the SUN's article on TVs, featuring Karen) led me directly to seeking out and joining Illusions, which in turn got me going out after meetings. Alt.transgendered has also provided me with numerous tips, tricks and advice on everything, from makeup, fashion, and developing a feminine voice, to finding a peaceful headspace and good self-esteem! I have even given advice myself, on things I thought that I could help with. I've made some good friends too, mostly in Canada and the U.S., but one is from northern Sweden! I correspond with them regularly via the free electronic mail (E-mail) offered on Internet.

A Night of Fashion
The most recent of Illusions events was a showing of the line available from Lingerie by Barbie. Models Michelle, Diane and Lisa took to the runway in brightly decorated jackets, smooth satin robes, sequin party dresses and Barbie's newest line of stunning velvet dresses for Christmas.

Perhaps the fashions inspired more than the audience, as the models found some of the designs irresistible and chose to take them home instead of leaving them on the rack. Talk about an easy sale!

A Special Thankyou

As you have noticed, our club looks pretty exciting these days. Streamers, stars, new paint and a lighting system. This comes from the hard work of Darryl, who has given hours of time to make our club look so darn good. When you see Darryl, thank him, he's a special person

Getting a membership to Internet can be done through various groups. Computer stores such as Logical Solutions offer memberships for about \$175/yr. Other groups to check out are The Calgary Unix Users Group, Necleus, or Freenet. I've heard that in Edmonton, Network Inc. is involved. In Alberta, A.G.T. offers service, but I found their system is quite complicated and expensive. If you are a student at, for example, U.of C., or if you take a night course in something to do with Unix, you will get an account that gets you access to Internet for free.

Once set up, you connect to the system, log-in, then type

"rn alt.transgendered"

This may be a little technical and dry for some, and it is! If you are in Calgary, I'd be more than happy to give any further help needed, and could possibly come and help to get it set up and running, as time permits. If there was enough interest, perhaps I could give a step by step demo of using Internet, at one of the club meetings.

SCORING ON THE STREET!

SO YOU'RE WORRIED IF YOU'RE GOING TO PASS? CHECK YOURSELF ON OUR SCORE-CARD AND FOLLOW OUR ADVICE AT THE END!

ONE. How tall are you?

If you are only 5 feet and dainty with it, score 20. Deduct one point for every inch taller. You score nothing if you are over 6ft 6ins!

Score _____

TWO. Your face!

Score 4 points if you are non-European, or if you've had electrolysis, then 2 points for any of the following; eyebrows plucked; a slight smile; well-applied lipstick; no Adams apple visible; a small nose; high feminine cheek bones.

Score _____

THREE. Your wig.

Score 3 for an unusual colour, 2 for a short length, 1 for a long length, 3 points for good body (looking natural) and only 1 for a common colour.

Score _____

FOUR. Cancel above if you've got your own hair!

Score 4 points if it's blonde, and professionally cut; score 3 if it's of medium length; 2 if it's long and only 1 if it's thick, or short.

Score _____

FIVE. Your clothes.

Score 3 for workplace

fashion - a jacket and skirt

- 2 for a style less than 2 years old, 2 for casual trousers (worn with padding), 2 for distinctive but classy jewellery and only 1 for glamour fashion

- the conventional cliched mini-skirt and silver eye-shadow. Looks fine in the mirror but won't convince the neighbours on the street!

Score _____

SIX. Your voice.

You've just got to practise and practise, perhaps over the phone with someone listening, or recording on the tape deck. If you've never practised, score only 2, but you get a full 13 for a well-modulated lady's voice.

Score _____

SEVEN. Act like a lady!

Score for any of the following; a good walk with no striding and leaning forward - 4. Sitting with legs together, NOT apart - 4. Arms relaxed, not folded - 1. Giving a gentle smile in response to a stare - 1.

Score _____

EIGHT. How's your figure?

Have you got a narrow waist? Score 4. Wide hips? Another 4.

Proper breasts, properly positioned? 2. Muscular legs? DEDUCT 2 points!
Score _____

NINE. Your hands and feet. Score 2 for either long nails or small hands, and 1 for small feet.
Score _____

Now add up your score on the nine sections.

Over 55; It's O.K. to dress anywhere, you're not usually read. Always do a final check for silly things you may have forgotten, such as leaving your man's watch on.

Between 45 and 55; Dress anywhere - but avoid the piercing eyes of loud-mouthed children!

Between 35 and 45; O.K. to dress in the evening, but the day-time could be tricky. Leave it till you've had more practice.

Under 35; Go out at night but stay indoors at sympathetic locations only! Stick with groups of friends and don't take risks on your own.

Quiz from an original idea by R O Connor.

Premarin

Many TS's and gender females take Premarin. Many of us know it is the urine of pregnant mares, but until now have we actually known exactly how it is produced. Please, consider switching to a synthetic brand of hormone replacement after reading the following article.

Thank you, Stacy Novak, TransEssex

The Suffering Behind Premarin

In 1993 approx 75,000 pregnant mares were confined in very small stalls. Virtually all of their foals were killed soon after birth, or sold to be fattened and then sent to slaughter. Some of the fillies were kept to be impregnated as soon as possible, to follow in their mothers' footsteps. This senseless cruelty is occurring right now because of a Canadian based company called Ayerst Organics, Inc. They are the world's only producer of pregnant mare urine (PMU) from which an oestrogen substitute, PREMARIN is extracted. Although other substitutes are available, doctors are still prescribing this drug to women needing hormone replacement therapy.

The equine factory farms are located in Canada, particularly in Manitoba, with some also in North Dakota. The mares are either catheterised or fitted with a cup and hose to collect their urine which is then sold at up to \$20 per gallon to Ayerst Organics, Inc.

Approx 8 million women are currently taking PREMARIN. They have possibly been told about the various side effects such as increased risk of breast cancer and gall bladder disease. There are also two forms of Prmarin called PMB 200 and PMB 400 which contain meprobamate, a powerful tranquilizer prescribed for anxiety that is addictive. Additional side effects include drowsiness, unsteady gait, impairment of thinking and memory loss. What women may not know is that there is another choice: 100% plant derived (synthetic) oestrogen replacement is just as effective and the price is virtually identical....ask your doctor! If women demand this synthetic plant based oestrogen replacement instead of PREMARIN, hundreds of thousands of mares and their foals will be spared.

There's no time to lose! With millions of women entering menopause, the PMU industry is gearing up. The Canadian Government have given Ayerst Organics 30 million dollars towards their 150million dollars planned facility expansion! As we go to press, 1,200 more factory farms have applied to produce PMU.

Unless there is an immediate and overwhelming response from the consumers and general public, the mares and foals currently caught up in this nightmare will quickly double and triple.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Inform your doctor of the facts and ask them to consider prescribing a cruelty-free alternative to patients requiring oestrogen.

2. Write a letter to your newspaper or women's magazines explaining how mares' urine is acquired and that there are effective alternatives available.

3. Write to the Manitoban Government.

The Hon. Marianne Cerilli
Room 234, Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8 Canada.

4. Write to the company that produces Premarin.

Robert Essner, President,
Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories
PO Box 8299
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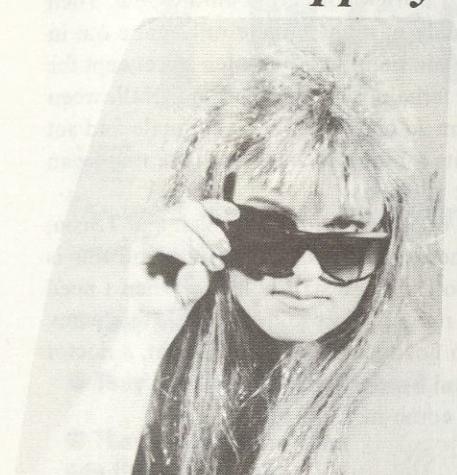
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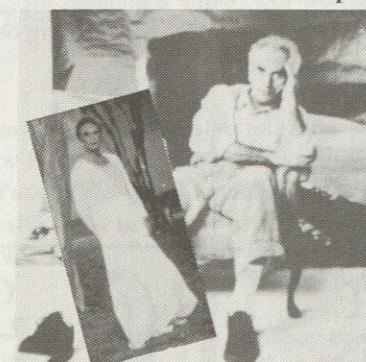
Easy Rider in pink boas. **The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert** is the funnest drag cruise on blacktop. This road film has taken a platform-heeled step ahead of those previous killers on the run or 'looking for America' classics. Priscilla is the light-hearted, feel good, crossdresser flick. My only regret girls is that because Illusions magazine is published once every two months, my rave review will reach you as Priscilla is leaving the movie circuit. None the less, keep a powdered chin up. This film has become a cult classic and will return to your repertory theatre for years to come and within months it will be on video.



Felicia, left and Mitzi

As in any good road picture, the three 'heroines' go on a personal as well as a physical journey. When they're not spooking the locals in small towns, reveling in 70's music or bitching at one-another, they learn that the protective walls of the city they set behind have left them vulnerable to those who don't like men in sequins.

Oddly, not a real queen is in this film, the actors are veteran heart-throbs, not thought of as feminine types. Australians Guy Pearce and Hugo Weaving as Felicia and Mitzi are better known to down-under audiences, the third star is career role-criminal, Terence Stamp.



Stamp, before and as Bernadette

Stamp played villain roles in Superman I and II, Wall Street and Legal Eagles. Transforming himself to be the transsexual matron of the trio, Bernadette, Stamp shopped in women's stores, researched transsexuality and met a transsexual. He said of that meeting: 'It was a big moment for me, and as I

watched her arrive, I realized that this was a woman. But I could also see that this could be me. So that meeting was a big boost to my confidence.' That boost held out long enough through shooting as he avoided mirrors and prayed that 'movie magic' will make him look beautiful. The premiere at the Cannes film festival was the let down, "I looked like some old hooker, you know. If I had been a real girl, I'd have gone to tears," he laments.

Priscilla runs out of gas when our three actors perform lip-sync on stage. Their acting skills can't compare to the fine performances you'll see here at Calgary's Midnight Cafe. The costumes though, they are to pant and drivel for. There's something inspiring about a 50ft silver cape trailing behind Felicia as she syncs opera, atop of the moving bus.



Plan 9 From TV Space

Best known as the worst film-maker of all time, Ed Wood Jr. has been immortalized by Disney in the current release: **Ed Wood**. Of course girls, this one may have to be a video rental, films don't get held over in theatres any more, like the **Pom-Pom Girls** did in the 70's.

Wood was an eccentric director who couldn't even make B films, his genre was more like C. His most famous film, a true cult classic was **Plan 9 from Outer Space**, it's so bad it's fun to watch. Another famous Wood film was **Glen or Glenda**, an autobiography in away, about Ed Wood. Wood you see was a flamboyant crossdresser, he would sometimes direct in an angora sweater and poodle skirt. Too bad about the Boston-blackie moustache.

Playing Wood is Johnny Depp (Edward Scissorhands). Dressing in drag for Depp tripled his respect for the ordeal women go through to get dressed. Commenting on his feminine look, Depp said, "I was

Cont'd on Page 24

Dear Barbie and Christine:

Hi. Thank you for sending me the information about the Illusions Social Club. I have read it at least twice already. I shared it with a good friend of mine and she loves it a lot too! Let me first tell you about myself. I am 30 years old and I'm a closet TV. I have gone out to bars, walks etc with my girlfriend who I have known for 11 years. I have come to the conclusion that I no longer like the way I am. I wish to be a woman. I contacted you through my therapist who I have been seeing for about a month now. I have known that I wanted to be a girl for about 15 years or so. I did a play in grade 7, as a girl and I like the clothes, ridiculed for doing it, yet accepted for the role. I longed to dress up and I never really got the chance. I suppressed those feelings and I felt so uncomfortable and full of stress. When I was married my wife suggested we host a party. We switched roles. She took advantage of it and things progressed from then on. I started collecting clothes, etc. Then I started going out at night, only a bit at a time. I am not overly confident, but I do pass only at night. I have only gone out in the day as a female to pick up a friend from work. She assures me that I look more female than most females do, except for my facial features. I exercise a lot - walking etc. My friend has asked me to dress as a female for parties around Halloween so that my male friends will think it's a lark. Only we would know the real reason. I am so comfortable as a female and act it so well. I could almost step out of my male life and become a woman...but I know it's a long process. I believe that I can do this if I have the support behind me and people I can associate with....like gals at Illusions.

After work, I relax as a female, all the stress of being male is gone. I have read many books, articles on TVism and TSism, but I never really gave it any thought to the fact that I was one! I have had some time to think of my life now and this is what I want.....to be happy with the person I am....it's not male. My friend will support me and will help me when I need it. The love the two of us share towards one another is strong and our friendship will remain. This is how I feel, this is my goal. I feel pretty strongly about this and I hope too soon. I just need some help. I am not sure of where to begin, a doctor etc, that will understand in our province. I will check in Saskatoon for some support. I will try to make a meeting in Calgary. Work is very busy for me but I will try to come in for a party!

Thank you very much for caring..... A new gal in Regina!

Dear Barbie: I just got my first copy of Illusions (V4.Issue3). I enjoyed it more than I can say. It was sexy, appealing, wonderful, but most of all warm and inviting. I wish I could be with you at the social club in Calgary. I'm over 40 and I've always wanted to crossdress and as of last Sunday I'm now a full time (off and on, I'm still in the closet) dedicated crossdresser. I thought it would be a quick excited sexual experience followed by revulsion. There was no such thing and when back at work each day I'm more pleasant, more understanding and more accepted by men and women alike and I'm still in the closet...man by day....woman by night! I will meet you one day soon and be with you and our wonderful sisters. Till then please put me on your mailing list and tell me how to become a member etc.

Yours truly....Jane in Winnipeg! P.S. Sorry for the shaky handwriting but I'm wearing a long pair of fingernails for the first time.....and one last thing...Barbie your gorgeous!

Dear Illusions....I am a 48 year old transvestite. I am not able to dress as a woman and go out as often as I would like to. I am on a pension, so I don't have a lot of money to spend on the clothes that I would like to have. I have been a transvestite for about 35 years. Before I got married I told my wife about being a TV, she's so/so on it. I would like to be able to talk to other girls about this so I can deal with this a lot better than I am now. Please can you help me? D.

DS

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[the world according to he & she]

Mutual admiration society

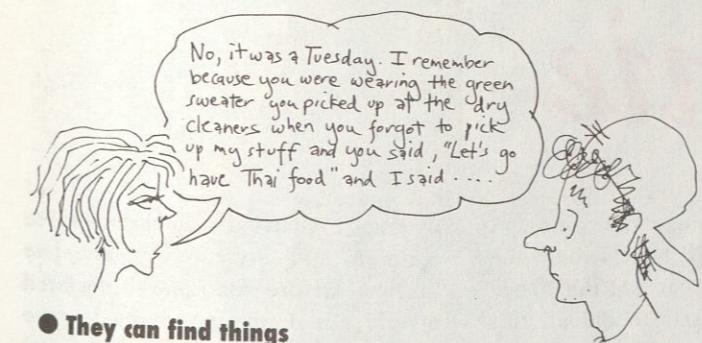
BY JULIE LOGAN AND ARTHUR HOWARD

Julie Logan and Arthur Howard are coauthors of the book The World According to He & She (Dell Publishing).

HE

The traits in women he admires and wouldn't mind having as his own:

- They have multiple orgasms
- They can be sexually aroused in public without detection
- They can do more than one thing at a time
- They don't take the Knicks' loss personally
- They have the ability, during an argument, to recall the most infinitesimal bits of previous dialogue



- They can find things

- They have hair, lots of it, and it keeps growing

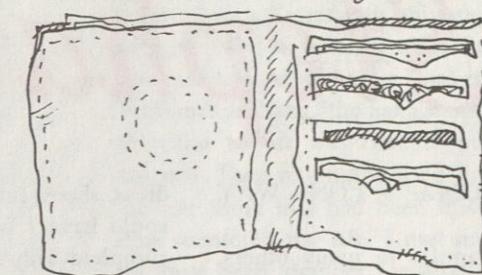
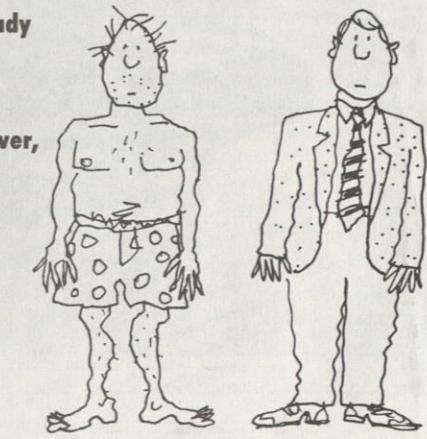


- They buy Christmas presents before Christmas Eve
- They always have mints

SHE

The traits in men she admires and wouldn't mind having as her own:

- They can get ready in minutes
- They can scratch themselves whenever, and wherever, they want
- They don't get cellulite
- They look good without makeup



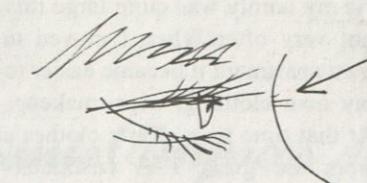
- They can carry everything they need in a wallet

- They could get along owning three shirts and two pairs of pants

- They don't feel guilty about sloppy housekeeping

- They have excellent eyelashes

- They make twice the money with half the wardrobe



Illusions Centerfold

This area has been left intentionally blank due to privacy considerations.



Stephanie

YOU HAVE COME A LONG WAY BABY!!-

My story is similar to many others, playing dressup as a child, then attempting to suppress this behaviour (not always successful), as I grew older. Later in my early teens I would borrow some of my mother's clothes and dressup when nobody was home. As my family was quite large this was not very often. When I moved to my own apartment it became easier to buy my own clothing, wigs, makeup, etc. At that time most of my clothes came from the great T.V. wishbook, the current "Sears" catalogue. I mean wishbook in two ways, I wish I could look like her, and I wish I owned that

dress, shoes, lingerie, etc, etc, etc. If I could have I would have bought the complete lady's wear section. They even sold the closets to put all this stuff in! I then discovered the advantages and disadvantages of catalogue shopping. Advantage #1 you don't have to face an inquisitive sales person #2 you can try clothes on in the privacy of your home. Disadvantage #1 rarely do the clothes look as good as in the pictures, #2 it may take several returns to get a decent fit, #3 it leaves a paper trail that suspicious wives will find. Try to explain why "B176594, bra, black, 40D" is on your credit card!

I started a business when in my late

twenties, married, fathered three children and divorced in my late thirties. Before marriage I declared myself cured, purged, burned, gave away, threw away, or buried several wardrobes, vowing never to crossdress again. There are advantages to purging #1 it gets rid of old out of style clothes, #2 it eases up closet space, #3 when you buy your next wardrobe you will probably be buying a larger size anyway.

After my divorce I gave up on the purging silliness, and decided to come to terms with the feminine side of myself. In rural western Canada it is difficult to find information on crossdressing let along find people

with the same interests. Eventually I found an advertisement for a publication called T.V. Guys at an address in Calgary. Through this source I made contact with another crossdresser who lived only three hours away. We talked on the phone several times and decided to travel to Calgary and attend a meeting of the Tri Ess group that had recently formed. The meeting was a fantastic experience, it was wonderful to finally meet other crossdressers in person. A number of the people I met there are good friends to this day. Prior to then, all my dressing had been in private and I had not adopted a feminine name, so in a flash of great inventiveness I became Stephanie. During the next few years I travelled to Calgary to attend as many Tri Ess meetings as I could. Then one meeting Barbie and some Illusions members attended and invited us to join Illusions. She didn't have to ask twice. I joined the next day and so did most of the others. In the fall of 1990 I moved to Calgary. FREE AT LAST!!! Now I could go out whenever I wanted to. For the first few months I was out nearly every weekend and sometimes during the week. It was like moving away from home for the first time. Often when the feminine self is allowed her freedom she tends to want to do all the things

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that you did when you were a young adult, like party all nite. Fortunately this stage didn't last as long as it did as a young man. Two reasons, my face can't stand the close shaves, and as Hank William's Jr. Sang "the hangovers hurt more than they use to". It was time to put my life into balance. Then one night at an Illusions meeting the one thing that had been missing for a long time reentered my life. I met my now "wife", we have been together for three years now and our relationship just gets better. She accepts the feminine side of me and enjoys the times she is out with Stephanie. We attend most Illusions and Tri-Ess functions, and really enjoy visiting old friends and meeting new ones.

LOVE

Stephanie (Empress 1)

WIGS.....

Doctor, lawyer, Indian chief? Just check out his wig. In the seventeenth century, that's how you can tell a man's profession. Custom dictates that ordinary folks wear little wigs, so anyone with a big wig is easily recognizable as a man of prominence.

Men and women both wear false hair in the early seventeenth century to add a little pizzazz to their hairstyles. Then Louis XIII of France sows the seeds of a fad when he puts on a peruke (in English, periwig, later shortened to just plain wig) to cover his bald pate. By the 1660s, fashionable Frenchmen are cropping their own hair to make way for long curly wigs, which have become an indispensable accessory. And now the nightcap is invented - the kind worn on the head- to keep drafts off defenceless, shorn scalps.



SEVILLE \$185.00

The finest wigs are made of human locks, while the less well-tressed get by with horsehair or wool. But Charles II of England, who brings the style across the Channel when he goes prematurely gray, boasts the ultimate wig - it is made from the pubic hair of his many mistresses!

By the 1680's, wig fever is full-blown. Now wigs grow enormous and are parted in the middle, with towering peaks of ringlets, tumbling down the back nearly to the waist. These giant confections - called full-bottomed

wigs- are so costly that the government holds lotteries which Frenchmen enter in the hopes of winning a wig. Louis XIV loves the style so much that he has ten personal wigmakers. And a new breed of criminal is born - the dreaded wigsnatcher.



**SHOWGIRL
\$195.00**

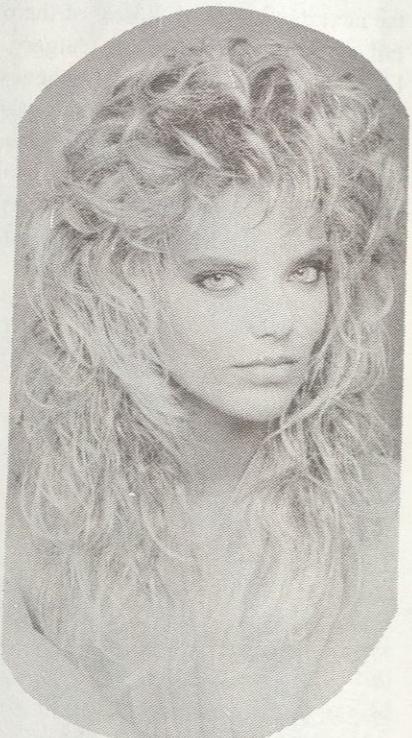
**ZORA
\$150.00**

Wigs have been a fashion accessory for centuries, worn by men and women alike. The Egyptians wore long braided affairs, Romans favoured the blonde locks shorn from their German captives while in England, lavishly powdered white wigs reached such enormous proportions that they were rarely taken down and became home for a host of undesirables such as mice!

Natural hair has always been the best material for wigs but because of its shortage, these tend to be rather expensive. Nowadays though, synthetic fibre has become refined enough to make life-like wigs. These are light and easy to wear, as well as being much cheaper. These wigs come in a vast range of styles and colours,

straight, permed, long, very long, very short...etc.

Prices vary from store to store and from style to style. Because of the choices available, it is well worth taking time to consider the style and function of the wig you want before you buy. Impulse buying can prove to be an expensive mistake! Different hairstyles can go a long way towards accentuating your good facial features and disguising the bad. You need to keep in mind the ways of feminising your features, as opposed to hiding them behind a veil of false hair!



WILDCAT \$160.00

A good idea to help you choose your first wig is to determine your face shape. One of the easiest way to do this is to stand in front of a mirror with your hair pulled back out of the way. Close one eye and trace the outline of your face, in lipstick or an eye pencil on the mirror. You will be left with a shape that should fit, roughly, into one of the categories listed on next page.



◀ OVAL FACE

This is generally regarded as being the most appealing.

DO: Show off natural hairline
Expose jawline (unless you're a TV!)

DON'T: Let the temples droop
Put hair forward over the temples



▶ LONG FACE

DO: Create width at jaw/chin
Use curl to create softness and width, Have a full fringe or side parting and side fringe

DON'T: Choose a style with flat sides, Create height, Choose a centre parting



▶ SQUARE FACE

DO: Choose a side parting
Create a rounded silhouette
Choose a long style to lengthen the face

Create height

DON'T: Wear hair at chin length
Choose a full, straight fringe
Wear a centre parting



▶ HEART-SHAPED FACE

DO: Disguise temple/forehead width by styling hair onto this area e.g. fringes

Create width below the ears/cheekbones to broaden and straighten a weak chin

DON'T: Create height
Sleek hair back from the forehead



▶ ROUND FACE

DO: Wear long hair
Create height on top
Choose a soft fringe
A centre parting can lengthen the face

DON'T: Create width at the sides
Create a rounded silhouette
Wear a blunt cut fringe

drying form or off something like your shower spray nozzle. Both of these allow air to circulate through the wig and also there isn't any stretch that could occur if your wig was drying on a styrofoam wig head.



SABRINA \$195.00



MONA LISA \$165.00



If your wig is extremely tangled use a wide tooth pick to remove the knots and then resume brushing with a proper wig brush.

Remember wigs are available in many different styles and colors. You don't have to stay with your natural color: you could be the "Blonde Bombshell", "Demure Brunette", or a "Ravishing Redhead".

All the above mentioned wigs, wig care products, and accessories are available thru mailorder or shop in person at "Lingerie by Barbie".

Be creative..... HAVE FUN!!!!

Cont'd from Page 17

the ugliest woman ever." Co-star Patricia Arquette disagrees. "He looks great in a dress," but adds, "We both hated those period stockings (1950's); they don't hold up."

The Karachi-Crossdresser



Since I'm on a roll about films that aren't playing at this moment, let's suggest another. Soon to be back at your repertory cinema is **Immaculate Conception** (Coming to Calgary's Plaza on Nov 19 and 20), a British film about a couple who travel to Pakistan to save their crumbling marriage. The wife learns that she may solve her inability to conceive by visiting a group of crossdressing Eunuchs.

It's a tongue-in-cheek look at relationships and the clash between cultures and lifestyles.

So what is new?

Keep a look-out for, **It's Pat**. Is it a boy, is it a girl? Pat, a popular skit character from Saturday Night Live is played by **Julia Sweeney**. Sweeney says, "There are lots of real Pats. I was at the gym and it took me 10 minutes to figure out what the person next to me-the one with the ponytail, makeup, and breasts-was a guy."

Stand by for another Priscilla-like, road film, just finishing production, **To Wong Foo**. Staring **Wesley Snipes**, **Patrick Swayze** and **John Leguizamo**. Don't expect the stark antics that Priscilla delivered, this is an American film, Universal Pictures wouldn't want to offend anyone. Regardless, I'll see Wong Foo. To see Patrick Swayze in drag will be worth the ticket price.

Until next time girls, remember:
Be your own TV Guide. Sarah

And Now...Tube Talk



For you lucky girls who have a satellite dish, dig into **GET**, (Gay Entertainment Network). Left, is Linda Simpson, host of **Party Talk**. Linda is a queen's version of Kathie Lee Gifford, only Linda has better wit and style. Quality TV for TV's.

On ABC, crossdressing gets treated like it usually does, on **On Our Own**. Laugh along as man learns how hard it is to get in and out of a bra or get used to the itch of pantyhose. This is the same pap dealt out on **Full House**, just add wig and falsies. You want a good laugh, tune into CBC's **Kids in the Hall**. This is the final season before they make movies.



Divine Revelation

With drag being the current rage in film and music, it's time to take off our feathered hats in remembrance of Divine. Star of disco stage and screen, Divine died from obesity in 1988. Her antics and conquests are remembered in the new biography by his manager Bernard Jay titled, **Not Simply Divine!**



Divine removed the Milton Bearle silliness from drag as well as Hollywood allusion and combined his antics as a strength of creativity. She may not have been pretty, but she was a showstopper.



We all have something to say.

Tell it through, this magazine; your magazine, **Illusions**

You don't need a fancy computer, just a pen, paper and an idea.

An Experience

- What you believe in
- Fiction
- An essay on a person or idea

Come to Las Vegas, at Illusions

Saturday Jan. 14, 1995
Try your luck at simulated Vegas games. Dress in your finest sequin outfits.

Thanks to Sherri for the Magazines for the "Library"

THE INSULT THAT MADE A WOMAN OUT OF "MAC"



WILL ILLUSIONS MAKE A NEW PERSON OUT OF YOU TOO?

Are you fed up with seeing the 'cutie pies' walk off with the best of everything? Sick and tired of being muscular, strong, with an iron-hard stomach and hairy body - only HALF ALIVE? We know just how you feel. Because many of us were macho 197 pound studs, ashamed of our broad shoulders and chest, dreading being seen in a short dress.

THE SECRET OF OUR SUCCESS

"Feminine - Tension" builds rounded figures fast! But seriously, wouldn't it be wonderful if we could be the women we want to be just by doing stretching exercises. The reality is, Charles Atlas, or should we say Charleen Atlanta doesn't have the miracle exercise, there's a lot more required for a crossdresser or transsexual to attain a female 'look'. Perhaps the finest course to follow is through **Illusions**, we're a club that caters to the needs and development of the TV/TS. An **Illusions** member meets others who feel the same way at twice-monthly socials, experiences and advice are shared, friendships are cast. Membership saves \$18 off the newsstand price of the magazine, a piece of fine work, if we should say!

START YOUR NEW LIFE TODAY!

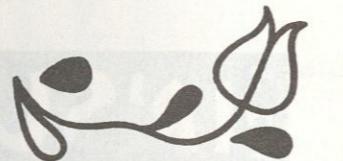
Illusions prides itself in its discretion, identities are kept confidential and a screening process is required for all those interested in joining. Illusions does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race or sexuality. Members are required to maintain club rules of discretion, and keep drugs and sexual practices away from club socials. Membership socials range from talent shows to educational seminars. During business hours and Saturdays, members may dress at the club for personal outings or stay for coffee, meet others and take in the club's extensive library. (Books, magazines and videos can also be loaned out).

For \$30, the **Illusions** membership is the best friend a TV or TS can have. So write us today (Include stamped envelope), or come down to **Illusions**. Don't delay, contact us now!

Illusions
Social Club

6802 Ogden Rd. S.E.
Calgary, Alta. T2C 1B4

LIBRARY NEWS



The Illusions Library is constantly growing and expanding to help you grow in your hobby. When we first opened up our library it seemed that there was only an abundance of pornographic material...(not that there is anything wrong with a little light literature once in awhile)..but since our outreach has improved....we are finding YOU some great information to digest. The library is still run in the original manner...\$2.00 a rental . The money goes into our pumpkin and as the money grows from the rentals...so does YOUR library. We would encourage you to come in and read some great books on your hobby so that you can educate not only yourself but others. We have recently ordered over 600\$ worth of books and videos from various places and these will all be here in the library. Don't forget that if you are interested in buying a copy of anything for your personal collection that can be done as well.

CROSSDRESSING WITH DIGNITY:

The case for Transcending Gender Lines, by Peggy J. Rudd, Ed.D "Can a man transcend gender lines and maintain self-worth and dignity?" Over 800 crossdressers were surveyed by the author of My Husband Wears My Clothes. This provocative book addresses conflicts and provides solutions.

T R A N S V E S T I T E S & TRANSSEXUALS: Toward a Theory of Cross-Gender Behaviour by Dr. Richard F. Docter. 10 years of original research, Dr. Richard has produced one of the finest scholarly works on the subjects of TV & TS ever written. Every community member should read this.

FROM MASCULINE TO FEMININE AND ALL POINTS IN BETWEEN, by Jennifer Anne Stevens. Easy to read, easy to understand guide for any TV, CD, TS, SO, helping professional. Terms, wardrobe, cuing, significant others, living full time, the operation, growth, and more. Everything you've ever wanted to know about the "T" phenomenon.

CROSSDRESSING, SEX, & GENDER, by Vern L. Bullough. 30 years of research in the field of gender dysphoria offers new groundbreaking theory as the Bulloughs search for explanations of crossdressing and female impersonation. Destined to become a classic in its field.

THE UNINVITED DILEMMA: A Question of Gender, by Kim E. Stuart. Stuart's painstaking research presents

with compassion the condition and feelings of transsexuals with current and accurate info. A humanistic approach to this complex issue, valuable to both the TS and their significant others.

COPING WITH CROSSDRESSING, by JoAnn Roberts. Strategies for partners in committed relationships. **THE TRANSSEXUAL'S SURVIVAL GUIDE,** by JoAnne Stringer. Transsexuals do not live in a vacuum. Their transition process affects everyone around them. This second volume is for family, friends, and employers. It will help the extended family of the TS understand transition and suggests ways to make it easier for all.

THE EMPLOYER'S GUIDE TO GENDER TRANSITION by Dana Cole. The publication for all business leaders and upper-level management personnel dealing with a TS in transition in the workplace.

TAPE #1..THE WORLD OF GENDER: CROSSDRESSING AND CROSSGENDERBEHAVIOURS. This tape explains crossdressing from a supportive perspective.

TAPE #2..THE WORLD OF GENDER: THE CROSSDRESSER AND THE TRANSSEXUAL--FIRST CONTACT.

TAPE #3..THE WORLD OF GENDER: THE CROSSDRESSER AND HIS WIFE--STRATEGIES FOR COPING. This video is for spouses and partners who suddenly discover the "secret". It is intended to clear up the

i m m e d i a t e f e a r s a n d misunderstandings.

TO BE A WOMAN, by Jerry McCLAIN. "I always wanted to be a woman..." Those opening words of this new book set the scene for one of the most unusual stories ever told, written by a successful novelist, husband and father! His understanding publisher gives Jerry a chance to live out his fantasy, encouraging the writer to live as a woman for an entire year. **TAPE: GIRL TALK..."Melanie Speaks"**...on developing a female voice. This tape will help you improve and condition your new found voice. **DEALING WITH YOUR FEELINGS.** A guide to coming out for persons with gender dysphoria.

DECIDING WHAT TO DO ABOUT YOUR GENDER DYSPHORIA: Some considerations for those who are thinking about sex reassignment.

DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE: A guide to self-assessment for persons with gender dysphoria.

AEGIS BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GENDER DYSPHORIA:

T R A N S S E X U A L I S M : INFORMATION FOR THE FAMILY. **RELIGIOUS ASPECTS OF TRANSSEXUALISM.**

HBIGDA STANDARDS OF CARE: The hormonal and surgical sex reassignment of gender dysphoric persons.

LETTER FROM A MOTHER: of a transsexual.

LETTER FROM A BROTHER.

EUGENE SCHRANG,M.D. VIDEO.

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....Guess Who's New At the Club?

Find the Skirt Length for Your Legs

#320 PAULA.....Has enjoyed CDing forever but having a hard time coming out.

#321 CHRISTINE.....Been a very Private girl. Time to break out!

#322 MICHELLE.....A girl desperately trying to get out!

#323 HEATHER.....Hope to see you at the club.

#324 TERRI.....Novice CD looking forward to exploring femme side.

#325 JENNIFER.....Welcome a new Edmonton gal.

#326 CANDACE.....For those of you who were in Red Deer, you'll remember Candace Camera! If you weren't there..ask her about it!

#327 BEVERLY.....A new gal from Saskatchewan on a journey of discovery.

#328 JADIE.....Been gone for 4 years looking to rediscover herself at the club.

#329 MONIQUE.....A gal that likes "going out"!

#330 ANDREA.....Brand new looking for advice and help.

#331 SHAUNA.....Breaking out of a 10 year closet!

#332 JENNIFER.....Another new girl from the north country.

#333 SARAH.....Nice to meet new friends.

#334 GORDON....Looking still for a special femme name. ?

#335 RACHEL.....Another new Edmonton gal with many moods.

The secret to looking great in a skirt? Wear what works best with your leg type.

SHORT LEGS: If your legs are more than 3 inches shorter than your upper body, your hemline should be anywhere from the top of your knee to 1 inch above.

LONG LEGS: If your legs are more than 3 inches longer than the upper body, the hemline can hit the bottom of the knee or above it.

Play up long legs with a short skirt
(no higher than where leg widens).

THICK KNEES: Stick with a skirt that hits below the knee, wherever your calf is smallest (either just below the knee or right above the ankle).

GREAT LEGS: Measure the distance from the top of your thigh to the top of your head, then from the top of your thigh to your anklebone. If the lengths are within 3 inches of each other, your legs are well-proportioned. Any skirt length will look good but your best will fall between 2 inches above and 2 inches below your knee.

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Illusions Social Events

We hope to see you

Thursday Nov. 24

Chance to Breathe - A good old fashioned social.

Saturday Dec. 17

Christmas Pot Luck - An Illusions tradition, bring an item and get in free. Donations will be accepted for the Food Bank, and Women's Shelters.

Saturday Jan. 14

Las Vegas Night - Viva Girls! Just like being there. Lots of fun to be had.

Thursday Jan. 26

Feminine Deportment - Learn to walk and move like a lady.

Saturday Feb. 11

Valentines Karaoke - The sirens are back for an evening of sweet surrender.

Thursday Feb. 23

White Nights - A winter's make-up or hair dressing session.

Saturday Mar. 11

Girls of Winter - We're back

A special thank you to Dixie and Crossland for donations to the Illusions Empress Pageant!

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Part two of our Chit Chat is with CHRISTINE...the other founding mother of ILLUSIONS! Lets ask her about things!.....

ILLUSIONS: When did you first come through the door here?

CHRISTINE: Which door?

I: The front door? Silly...

C: Do you mean the front door of what was called Lingerie by Barbie?

I: Yes.

C: About 5 years ago I read a very small advertisement in the SUN classifieds about a love shop that had custom clothing. So I figured custom clothing meant somebody there could sew, and I knew that all the clothes that I liked had to either be built or altered because I'm just not the "off the rack kind of gal".

I: How was your 1st visit?

C: My 1st visit was one of sheer terror. I walked in and there was this guy standing there and I asked him if they did alterations? Said sure and ask back there..pointing the way.

I headed for the back room stepped in.....and what did I see?

I: WHAT....WHAT?????

C: Well what I saw was certainly not what I expected?

I: What did you expect?

C: I expected the stereotypical seamstress, large, matronly woman hunched over a sewing machine. **WRONG!** Instead I find not one but two good looking young ladies.

I: What were you thinking then?

C: Just my luck, the 1st person I'm going to actually have to divulge my deepest secret to turns out to be this extremely desirable woman who will probably laugh me out of the store! I Chickened out and left the store.

I: When did you go back and how did it go?

C: It took about a week to recover

CHIT CHAT

with
Christine

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I: Did you ever think you would meet so many gals as you have by now?

C: I had no idea that crossdressing was as prevalent in our society. I had no idea how many people would want to become involved in an organization that by its very nature is so underground.

I: Did you think you were the only one?

C: Long before Illusions came about I continued to visit the "Shop" for any reason I could think of. The friendly atmosphere and the accepting manner of all around the "Shop" was a joy to experience. We kind of evolved beyond a customer relationship to a friend level. Having been in business all my life I found myself offering advice on a business level. Hanging around it became apparent I wasn't the only crossdresser customer Barbie had so the idea of getting all her CD customers together was hatched.

I: You never told your 1st wife?

C: I've never told any of my wives! Now that doesn't mean it had anything to do with my divorces though!

"I came out of the Wheel Well of my car!"

I: Where did you hide your clothes all those years?

C: Short term I was looking for a safe place to pursue my hobby. Long term I had an idea that a club could have a meeting area, makeup room, lockers, showers, you know, a typical crossdressers country club. All of these things were something that I needed and I figured there were probably lots more out there who could benefit from the same type of facility.

I: So you "Came out of your Car?"

C: Some people refer to coming out of the closet, I refer to it as Coming out of the wheel well of my car!

Chit Chat

I: No doubt your life has been fairly action packed in the last 5 years! You have helped build a new store and club, you and Barbie recently married...congratulations.

I: Had you ever dreamed of being a bride?

C: Action packed doesn't begin to cover it! I never dreamed of being Happily Married! Never mind being the wife of a happily married couple. So being a bride never entered my mind!

I: What's the secret of being a happy couple?

C: First of all you need two people and those two people have to be committed to sharing everything that they think and do with each other. So that means that honesty and communication with each other has to be of prime importance. No secrets.

I: Do you two talk about EVERYTHING?

C: There isn't a subject that either of us has anything to do with that we haven't discussed. If its happened to either of us we've talked about it.

I: Tell us about your femme thoughts?

C: I don't really distinguish between my thought patterns. They all come from the same person so I'm not sure you could call anything femme thoughts.

I: Do you wish you were Christine all the time?

C: If and when the circumstances surrounding my life were such that I could make a choice it certainly would be in Christines favour. However being a pragmatic or realistic type of person I know that Christine would only come about through a large expenditure of dollars. Being a person that isn't happy with half measures I know that I would have to lay the groundwork out to achieve Christine.

I: What do you mean by groundwork?

C: Well, just that you can't wish for

something as major as a "Gender" change to happen just because you think it should. You can't be a girl and have a bluebeard hue to your face and expect to be accepted as a female so, Electrolysis (couple of years and \$5-\$10 thousand later and no beard). Then comes psychological evaluations that lead to hormone therapy (more dollars for doctors and drugs) and then the real life test! This means you have to live the life of your chosen "Gender" for two years and then the "Sex Re-assignment Surgery" (more dollars but this time \$8-\$20 thousand).

So unless you have unlimited funds you have to do as much as you can while you're still in your peak money making mode, in other words while you're still a man.

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I: Wow, you've really done your research on this! With the club and the magazine...can you predict any future plans for these?

C: For myself all I know is that as long as new people keep coming through the door and there is a perceived need for the club and consequently for the magazine I can't see there being an end to either in the near future. I hope the people that read the magazine and have joined the club will continue to enjoy both and as long as they do..we'll continue to provide the highest quality club and mag that we are capable of.

I: Do you ever sleep?

C: We have a sign on our fridge that says sleeping is not wasting time! We continue to find more avenues that are gender and community related that require our time. I'm not sure we ever really sleep...we just get horizontal and pass out!

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I: Any last comment?

C: There are so many gender related issues that need to be addressed. We are misrepresented to the general public. We all need to be involved in community outreach, whether its of an individual nature or addressing a university class. If we don't educate people who will? I've said it before and I'll say it again... **You don't have to be an activist...just be active!!**

Thanks Christine!

GOOD MANNERS FOR GIRLS IN 1430.

Every proper young damsel knows that there's a fine line between uncouth and ladylike behaviour. To keep yourself on the track, follow these tips from fifteenth-century author Jean Sulpice.

- *Your dress should be clean and without filth.
- *Do not let your face or hands be dirty.
- *Take care that no drippings from the nose hang there like icicles that one sees hanging from the rafters and eaves of houses in winter.
- *Your fingernails should not be too long or full of filth.
- *Make sure that your hair is well combed and that your headdress is not full of feathers or other trash.
- *Your shoes should be clean and not dirty or muddy.
- *Your tongue should be clean and not covered with filth.

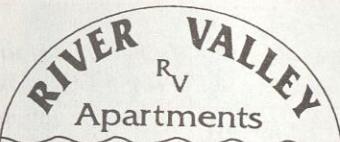
*Have your teeth clean and without rust - that is to say, with out the yellow matter attached to them as a result of insufficient cleansing.

*Understand that it is improper and discourteous to scratch your head at the table, remove from your neck fleas or other vermin and kill them in front of others, scratch or pull at scabs in whatever part of the body they may be.

*If you have to blow your nose, you should not remove the excrement with the fingers, but in a handkerchief.

*If you spit or cough, you need not swallow what you have already drawn into the throat, but spit on the ground or into a handkerchief or napkin.

*If you are forced to belch, do so as quietly as possible, always averting the face.



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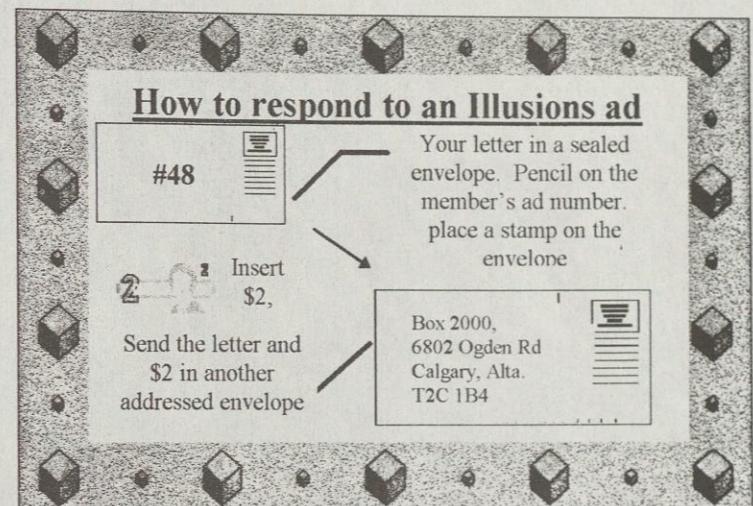
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